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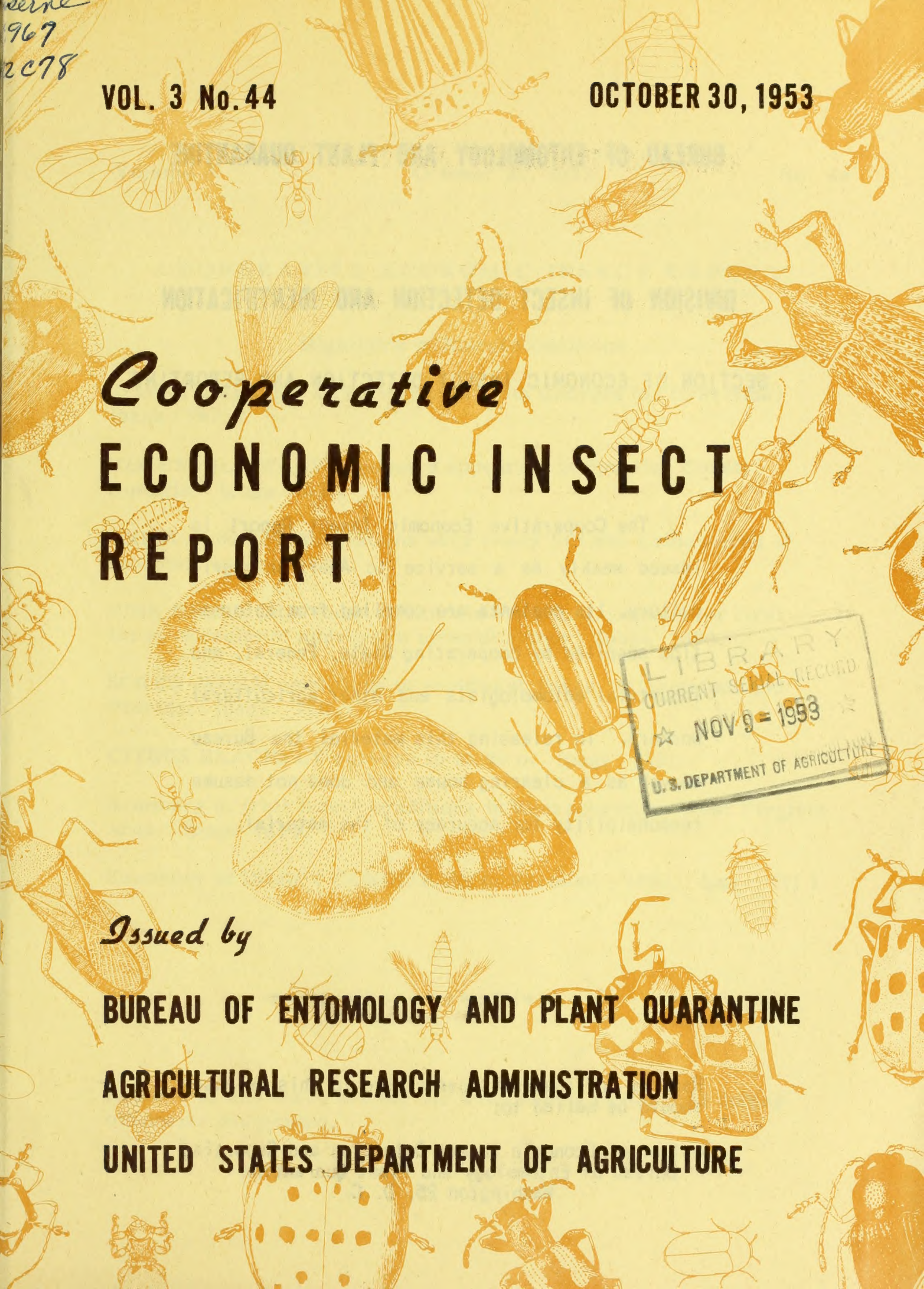

VOL. 3 No. 44

OCTOBER 30, 1953

Cooperative
ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

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DIVISION OF INSECT DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

SECTION OF ECONOMIC INSECT DETECTION AND REPORTING

The Cooperative Economic Insect Report is issued weekly as a service to American Agriculture. Its contents are compiled from information supplied by cooperating State, Federal, and industrial entomologists and other agricultural workers. In releasing this material the Bureau serves as a clearing house and does not assume responsibility for accuracy of the material.

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Volume 3 October 30, 1953 No. 44

COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

Highlights of Insect Conditions

TOMATO RUSSET MITE reported from Georgia for first time. (page 767).

VEGETABLE WEEVIL damage appearing in Spalding County, Georgia. (page 767).

ONION MAGGOT infestations very heavy in Lake Labish area of Oregon. (page 768).

PINK BOLLWORM found in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana for first time. Results of surveys in several states. (page 769).

SCREW-WORM conditions in southwest Texas, Mississippi and Florida. (page 770).

CITRUS BLACKFLY surveys in Mexico. (page 766).

Summary of fruit insect conditions in Kearneysville, West Virginia area. (page 767).

Summary of INSECT CONDITIONS in Vermont - 1953. (page 771).

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Reports in this issue are for the week ending October 23 unless otherwise designated.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 26, 1953

Widespread light to heavy precipitation that either ended or greatly relieved the drought situation in most areas from the Pacific States to the Mississippi Valley was the outstanding weather feature of the past week. These rains were falling over the Pacific and Mountain States and western Great Plains on the 29th and spread slowly eastward almost to the Appalachians by the end of the period. Soaking rains fell over Oklahoma and Texas, except the southwestern fifth of the latter State. Heavy rains also fell over western portions of Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas, but falls were light in some eastern sections of these States. Snowfall occurred in the central Rocky Mountains, and heavy falls in Colorado and Wyoming slowed transportation and marooned a number of hunters. Rainfall in the central and lower Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys on the 25th and 26th was mostly moderate to heavy and should be of considerable benefit in relieving the drought conditions in those areas. A disturbance off the north Atlantic coast on the 23d, 24th, and 25th brought light rain to the Middle Atlantic States and northern New England and heavy amounts to southern New England. These rains helped relieve the fire hazard in New England but were of little benefit in relieving water shortages or furnishing much needed soil moisture. Virtually no rain fell in the Southeast, but this dry weather was welcome in Florida where agricultural operations are just beginning to make good progress following the wet spell of previous weeks. The rains west of the Appalachians were accompanied by a decided drop in temperature. In the central Mountain States temperatures fell from 10° above to 10° below normal early in the period and remained below normal the remainder of the week. Freezing was widespread in the Mountain States except in the extreme south and by the end of the period had spread over the northern Great Plains to the Great Lakes. In contrast temperatures remained above normal in the Atlantic States and during the first few days in the Midwest. In the latter area maximum temperatures were in the 80's during the first three days and established new high temperature records for so late in the season at many stations. A few of these new records that occurred on the 21st were the following: Grand Rapids, Mich., 85°, Cleveland, Ohio, 83°; Chicago, Ill., 87°; and Louisville, Ky., 88°. Average temperatures for the week were below normal from the Great Plains to the Pacific Coast with departures as much as 10° in southern Nevada. The week was warmer than usual east of the Great Plains with departures up to 10° at a few points in the Great Lakes region. (Summary Supplied by U. S. Weather Bureau).

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

GRASSHOPPERS - UTAH - Surprisingly large population of Melanoplus mexicanus still alive in areas around Logan. (Thornley, Knowlton, Oct. 18).

BROWN WHEAT MITE (Petrobia latens) - UTAH - Only a few specimens found on fall wheat, 4 to 6 inches tall, in dryfarm areas of Salt Lake County. (Knowlton).

A LEAFHOPPER (Dikraneura carneola) - UTAH - Numerous in fall-wheat fields, especially near margins, in some Salt Lake and Tooele dryfarm areas. (Knowlton).

A GRASSWORM (prob. Mocis repanda) - GEORGIA - Destroyed about 20 acres of rye in Burke County. (Chase, Oct. 20).

LESSER CORNSTALK BORER (Elasmopalpus lignosellus) - OKLAHOMA - More abundant than normal on early-seeded wheat in central and north central areas. (Dahms).

FALL ARMYWORM (Laphygma frugiperda) - ARIZONA - Boring into ears of sweet corn in a planting near Mesa. (Hopkins).

A WHITEFLY (Aleurocybotus n. sp.) - ARIZONA - Infesting grain sorghum in Pinal County. Not severe. (Bibby).

GREEN JUNE BEETLE (Cotinis nitida) - GEORGIA - Larvae attacking roots of lespedeza and clover in two 15-acre fields in Harris County, October 12. (Beckham).

PEA APHID (Macrosiphum pisi) - UTAH - Some economic injury to tall, succulent alfalfa in a few fields in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. (Knowlton).

LEAF MINERS - UTAH - Present in alfalfa fields in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. Total infestation less than 1 percent of leaves. (Knowlton).

A MEALYBUG (Phenacoccus n. sp.) - CALIFORNIA - Found for first time in Marin and Contra Costa Counties. Collected from ryegrass growing on nursery premises. (Armitage).

GROUND PEARLS - FLORIDA -Survey of 50 new lawns in Pensacola area indicates that ground pearl damage may not be as important as once thought. Although majority of new lawns had symptoms of "pearl damage", no specimens could be found in any of the lawns. (Guthrie).

FRUIT INSECTS

Citrus Blackfly Surveys: MEXICO - Between October 1 and 15, 31 new infestations of citrus blackfly (Aleurocanthus woglumi) found in the town of Hualahuises (6 miles north of Linares), Nuevo Leon. Infestations, consisting of 191 trees, considered rather heavy. Some trees 100 percent infested. Spraying began immediately. These were the heaviest infestations found in northeastern area in quite some time. The location was inspected in 1950 and found free of infestation. Survey work has been continuing in all citrus producing areas of northeastern Mexico, with a few infestations being found at Linares, Montemorelos and Victoria. The last infestations found in Monterrey were discovered during latter part of May. These consisted of only 2 very lightly infested properties in an old infested zone. A re-inspection of the city of Matamoros is nearly complete and no recurrent infestations have been discovered to October 20. Inspections completed in northern part of State of Coahuila and no citrus blackfly found. In the West Coast area inspections being continued in States of Sonora and Baja California. Last infestations discovered in this area were at Hermosillo, where 17 infested properties were found during year ending June 1953. A re-inspection of the city of Hermosillo now underway. No reinfestations found to October 20. Inspections in Tijuana, Mexicali, and Ensenada in the State of Baja California have been negative. (Stephenson).

PECAN WEEVIL (Curculio caryae) - OKLAHOMA - Nearing peak of emergence from nuts and going into the soil. (Bieberdorf).

Fruit Insect Summary, Kearneysville, West Virginia Area

CODLING MOTH (Carpocapsa pomonella) - Injury is somewhat less than that of the 1952 season. Local processors report receiving some fruit with "worm" injury up to 5 percent. Average injury for the area would probably be near 2 percent for all commercially sprayed fruit harvested in the area. ORCHARD MITES - Mites did not increase as much as expected. While dry, hot weather periods in June and July are expected to favor a build up of orchard mite populations, the prolonged drought apparently did not favor such increase. Fewer Tetranychus mite infestations were in evidence this season than normal for the area. WOOLLY APPLE APHID (Eriosoma lanigerum) - "Aerial" forms became more numerous during late season (August to September) than normal. There were a few grower requests for sprays to control the above ground forms of this aphid. APPLE MAGGOT (Rhagoletis pomonella) - Again as last year, there were a few reports and occurrences of apple maggot. To date, however, no maggots have been found in fruit from commercially sprayed orchards in this area. All samples were found only in abandoned blocks. (Hamstead, Oct. 26.).

TRUCK CROP INSECTS

TOMATO RUSSET MITE (Vasates destructor) - GEORGIA - Isolated infestation found in home garden tomato planting in Dougherty County during June. Plants grown from seed by owner. (Osburn). According to available files, this is the first record of this mite in Georgia.

VEGETABLE WEEVIL (Listroderes costirostris obliquus) - GEORGIA - Light leaf feeding by adults on 1/2 acre of turnips in Spalding County, October 14. (Beckham).

SOUTHERN GREEN STINK BUG (Nezara viridula) - FLORIDA - Populations on okra in Grady and Decatur Counties area started building up about August 1. Infestations reached economic level about October 1. Now largely concentrated on few remaining okra plantings and occasional fields of fall snap beans and turnips. (May, Woodward).

CABBAGE CATERPILLARS - ARIZONA - Southern cabbageworm (*Pieris protodice*) infesting cabbage at Mesa. (Hopkins). Diamondback moth (*Plutella maculipennis*) larvae and adults on brussels sprouts in Pinal County. Cabbage looper (*Trichoplusia ni*) egg-laying decreasing in Pinal County. Some parasitism of eggs by a hymenopteron and larvae by a tachinid. (Bibby).

BEET ARMYWORM (*Laphygma exigua*) - ARIZONA - Slight increase in Maricopa and Pinal Counties. (Bibby).

THREE-CORNERED ALFALFA HOPPER (*Spissistilus festinus*) - ARIZONA - Numerous on lettuce at Queen Creek. (Bibby).

ONION MAGGOT (*Hylemya antiqua*) - OREGON - There has been the heaviest infestation in parts of Lake Labish area in history of onion growing in the State. Normally there is little damage after June, even in bad years. This year maggots still active in October. Recent survey showed as high as 247 overwintering pupae per square foot of soil. Average number of pupae per square foot of soil in one three-acre planting was 74.45. (State Dept. Agr.).

POTATO LEAFHOPPER (*Empoasca fabae*) - TENNESSEE - Abundant on Irish potato, eggplant and other garden crops in Clarksville area. Damage light. (Scott).

MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE, HORNWORMS on tomato and tobacco, APHIDS on cole crops and IMPORTED CABBAGEWORM less than normally abundant in Clarksville, TENNESSEE area. Drought very severe. (Scott).

WHITE PEACH SCALE (*Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*) - NEW YORK - Very heavy on flowering cherry on Long Island. (Cantelo).

COTTON INSECTS

COTTON LEAFWORM (*Alabama argillacea*) - GEORGIA - Heaviest infestation in many years in Fort Valley area. Some fields of cotton completely defoliated. (Snapp). FLORIDA - Large numbers of adults captured recently in electric black-light moth trap at Quincy. (May).

PINK BOLLWORM (Pectinophora gossypiella) - Green boll inspection was conducted during the period in 34 TEXAS counties extending from the Louisiana line to the New Mexico line across central part of State. Twenty-four of these counties scattered throughout the area were found infested. Boll inspection in LOUISIANA and CALIFORNIA was negative as to pink bollworm. Gin trash inspection results continued negative in SOUTH CAROLINA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI and ARKANSAS. First pink bollworm found in LOUISIANA this season, outside of DeSoto Parish, was taken in Lincoln Parish, not previously infested, on October 13. On same date, one specimen was found in Calcasieu Parish, which was the first for the season from the old quarantined area. On October 15, one specimen was found in Caddo Parish from a gin near DeSoto Parish line. Gin trash inspection results in northeastern TEXAS have shown very few pink bollworms. Several of the counties are still negative while in others only one specimen has been found. Inspections in the San Angelo vicintiy are showing a large number of pink bollworms, although the infestation seemssomewhat lighter than last year in some counties. Inspection of lint cleaners was conducted in Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy and Luna Counties, NEW MEXICO; Jackson, Tillman and Washita Counties, OKLAHOMA ; and in 22 central, west, and northwest TEXAS counties. Pink bollworm was found in all of the New Mexico counties, in Jackson and Tillman Counties, Oklahoma and in 16 of the 22 Texas Counties. (Welker, Oct. 1-15).

Statement on Cotton Insect Situation in Arizona, 1953: Infestations, as a whole, much less than in 1952, especially bollworm populations. Yields reduced, however, in many fields due to uncontrolled lygus infestations. (Roney).

FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (Dendroctonus frontalis) - TEXAS - One small infestation, the first in almost two years, found in Liberty County. (Lee).

PHASMID (Diapheromera sp.) - OKLAHOMA - Defoliated most of pin oaks and red oaks on northern slopes of Winding Stair Mountains for second consecutive year. (Howell).

AMBROSIA BEETLES - TEXAS - Large numbers attacking pine logs at Votaw. (Lee).

INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

SCREW-WORM (Callitroga hominivorax) - TEXAS - Reports from ranchers and county agents in southwest area indicate that incidence of screw-worms has been relatively low throughout summer. Most cases occurred in sheep and goats. Proper use of recommended wound treatments and lack of sufficient moisture contributed to the low incidence. (Brundrett, Schomberg). MISSISSIPPI - Following reports of infestations in southern Washington County in July, detailed survey indicated that heaviest incidence of screw-worms was in Warren County and western Hinds County. Incidence was light but rather general in southern part of the State and extending toward the northeastern corner. Adequate supplies of recommended remedies were available and no severe outbreak is expected. FLORIDA - Fly activity over southern half of State greatly reduced during past two months due mostly to exceptionally heavy rains. Winter carry-over of screw-worms in this area may be very light. Incidence very high in central area in hogs maintained in peanut and corn fields. Infestations about normal for time of year in other parts of the State. (Skipper).

EAR TICK (Otobius megnini) - OKLAHOMA - Extremely high populations (300-400 per ear) on cattle at El Reno in central Oklahoma. (Howell).

RECENT IMPORTANT INTERCEPTIONS AT PORT OF ENTRY

Pink bollworm. During the examination of plant material in baggage at Eagle Pass, Texas October 16, Plant Quarantine Inspector E. A. Peck found a package of okra pods from La Zacatosa, Coahuila Mexico heavily infested with living larvae of the pink bollworm, Pectinophora gossypiella. Twenty-nine larvae were taken from a total of ninety-eight pods in the shipment. The infested okra was seized and destroyed by burning.

SUMMARY OF INSECT CONDITIONS - 1953

VERMONT

General Insect Conditions (reported by J.W. Scott)

MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE (*Epilachna varivestis*) - Generally heavy in all sections toward close of season. ROSE CHAFER (*Macrodactylus subspinosus*) - Very heavy outbreak in the vicinity of Burlington. JAPANESE BEETLE (*Popillia japonica*) - Some reduction of adult population in the Connecticut valley but a greater build-up in Bennington. STRAWBERRY ROOT WEEVIL (*Brachyrhinus ovatus*) - Several complaints of invasions of homes, no reports of damage in fields. EUROPEAN CORN BORER (*Pyrausta nubilalis*) - Slight increase in stalk infestation over preceding year. Greatest increase in southern part of state. ELM LEAF BEETLE (*Galerucella xanthomelaena*) - Heavy damage areas not treated with insecticides. Spread extended northerly in central portion of State to Montpelier. MOSQUITOES - Population about normal in spring. Dry weather curtailed development later in season. ELM SPANWORM (*Ennomos subsignarius*) - Defoliation of elms in some parts of Champlain Valley.

Forest Insect Conditions (reported by E. B. Walker)

Hundreds of thousands of acres defoliated by FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR (*Malacosoma disstria*). Probably one of worst outbreaks in some time. Sugar maple seems to be favored species and sugar bushes were severely infested throughout State except for the north central area (Lamoille and Orleans Counties). Working closely with this insect were LINDEN LOOPER (*Erranis tiliaria*) and BRUCE SPANWORM (*Operophtera bruceata*) in approximately a 13-5-2 ratio. A small local build-up of linden looper in Huntington was heavily parasitized. Poor maple crop predicted in spite of weather next spring. Damage accentuated in southern Connecticut River and Champlain Valleys by GYPSY MOTH (*Porthetria dispar*) outbreak coincidental with and following forest tent caterpillar. Refoliation on sugar maple slowed or prevented in many areas by subsequent drought, especially on poorer, better drained sites. Effect probably worse than had there been two consecutive normal defoliations. Outlook for next year, based on cooperative egg-mass survey, as bad if not worse in intensity and extensiveness. Parasites building up. Cocoon parasitism up to 50 percent on forest tent caterpillar in some areas. Wilt disease prevalent in Connecticut River Valley among forest tent caterpillar and gypsy moth populations, but natural agents have not yet controlled the situation.

Heavy PINE LEAF APHID (*Pineus pinifoliae*) migration from red spruce gave rise to a heavy population on white pine which caused early chlorosis and drooping of new shoots; however, in some areas damage has receded and many heavily attacked plantations have recovered mysteriously. Agent bringing about natural control undetermined. SPRING or FALL CANKERWORMS (*Paleacrita vernata* and *Alsophila pometaria*), or both, locally abundant in Champlain Valley. Completely defoliated elms in cemeteries and along Route 22A from Vergennes to Fair Haven. SATIN MOTH (*Stilpnotia salicis*) completely defoliated ornamental aspen in Rutland and Fairlee areas. MAPLE LEAF CUTTER (*Paraclemensia acerfoliella*) and MAPLE TRUMPET SKELETONIZER (*Epinotia aceriella*) continued to increase on sugar maple throughout the State, but because of lateness of defoliation, both are considered minor pests even though effects can be quite startling.